



a program of the
Windham Regional Community Council, Inc.
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To Whom It May Concern:

The Before and After School Programs (BASP) at the Windham Public Schools not only provide the students of our priority district with essential academic and enrichment support, but also engage families in their children's learning, and serve as a network through which local K-12 providers communicate and collaborate in order to better serve the entire community. Cutting funding for these valuable programs is short-sighted and will cost the state much remediation in the long-term.

GROW Windham has collaborated with the Windham Before and After School Programs for the past four years, and we have been inspired by the level of engagement that they generate among students, families, and the community at large. It does take a village to raise a child, particularly in a priority school district such as ours, where parents are often working two jobs and not able to provide the academic support and enrichment activities that children receive in more affluent school districts.

The Windham Before and After School programs provide the tutoring, literacy training, PE/Health interventions, and focused homework time that all students need, and that are particularly required to close the achievement gap that is so prevalent in our state. In addition, the enrichment activities offered by the BASP provide diverse outlets for students to develop interests and skills that will engage them for a lifetime. More immediately, the programs keep students stimulated and supervised and achieving in school – a positive state that is much simpler, and more economical, to maintain rather than to attempt to remediate once a student has gone off-track.

As our representatives, you have a mandate both to provide equitable educational opportunities for all of the students of this state, as well as to spend our tax dollars wisely, which means on relatively inexpensive preventive measures, rather than the costly chronic remediation that will be required if our students are left to fall behind.

Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions: sally.milius@growwindham.org; 960-423-4534 x312.

Thank you for your consideration, and I congratulate you in advance for protecting funding for these valuable Before and After School Programs.

Sincerely,

Sally Milius
Director, GROW Windham